

SENATE RESOLUTION 7011

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to recognize William Michael Owen of the Wilson County Sheriff's Office on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should salute those extraordinary Tennesseans who, through their remarkable and exceptional efforts, have gone above and beyond the call of duty by dedicating their lives to protecting the citizens of this State and nation; and

WHEREAS, William Michael Owen of the Wilson County Sheriff's Office is one such estimable individual, who has devoted his life to the preservation of law and order and the protection of his fellow citizens and will take his much-deserved retirement this year; and

WHEREAS, born in Nashville on December 31, 1958, William Owen is the son of William and Peggy Owen and was raised in Evansville, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, a 1977 graduate of Reitz Memorial Catholic High School, Mr. Owen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Belmont College in 1981; he also graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy in 1981 and the Kentucky Law Enforcement Cabinet in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen enjoyed an illustrious career and proudly served his nation in the United States Army, the Tennessee Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard from 1986 until 2015, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant Raven with more than twenty-nine years of devoted service, a Medal of Valor, and two devices for special operations situations; and

WHEREAS, William Owen committed to fifty-two deployments throughout the Middle East and South America, which included Operations Southern and Northern Watch, Desert

Shield, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Fundamental Justice and humanitarian missions in Haiti and Santiago, Chile; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen began his laudable career in law enforcement as a member of the Lebanon Police Department, where he served from 1989 until 1994 and achieved the rank of patrol sergeant; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the 15th Judicial Drug Task Force from 1994 to 1995 and subsequently served the Wilson County Sheriff's Office from 1995 to 2003 as a detective and captain in the narcotics unit, in which positions he organized and assisted the development of the Special Operations Team and served as commander; and

WHEREAS, from 2003 until 2011, Mr. Owen served the United States Department of Energy as a special operations team member at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge before returning to the Wilson County Sheriff's Office as a narcotics supervisor and commander of the special operations team; and

WHEREAS, having completed six years of service as Chief Deputy of the Wilson County Sheriff's Office and a thirty-three-year career in law enforcement, William Owen has proved himself time and again to be a tremendous asset to the department; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Owen enjoys the love and support of his wife of twenty years, Nicole Shogren Owen; they are the proud parents of Jackie Huey, Rachel Owen, and Kalie Johnson and the grandparents of Owen Huey and Coralyn Huey; and

WHEREAS, William Owen exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Owen demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow officers and a grateful public; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge William Owen for his dedication and service to the citizens of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend William Michael Owen on his exemplary career with the Wilson County Sheriff's Office and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.